

REMARKS

Claims 12-31 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 21 and 30 are canceled, claims 12 and 23 are amended and no new claims are added.

Claim Objections

Claims 12 and 23 were objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 12 and 23 were not punctuated and therefore not complete sentences. The informalities in Claims 12 and 23 have been corrected. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12, 16-20, 23 and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Agata (U.S. Pat. No. 6,469,839).

Applicant has amended independent claim 12 to include limitations that were recited in claim 21 which the examiner has indicated is allowable. Claims 13-20 and 22 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12. Therefore, claims 13-20 and 22 are patentable for the same reasons as indicated for claim 12.

Applicant has amended independent claim 22 to include limitations that were recited in claim 30 which the examiner has indicated is allowable. Claims 23-29 and 31 depend directly or indirectly from claim 22. Therefore, claims 23-29 and 31 are patentable for the same reasons as indicated for claim 22.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-15, 22, 24-26 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Agata.

As indicated above, Claims 12 and 23 as amended are now patentable. All of the pending claims that depend from claims 12 and 23 are patentable for the same reasons as indicated for claims 12 and 23. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

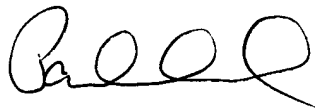
Claims 21 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12 and 23 from which claims 21 and 30 respectively depend have been amended to include all the limitations previously recited in claims 21 and 30, thus making claims 12 and 23 allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Onderick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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